

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 743

By Haile

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend David Collins upon the occasion of his retirement from the Union Elementary STEM and Demonstration School.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those sterling individuals who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable person is David Collins, who, after serving with probity for many years as a teacher, is taking a much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, a 1969 graduate of Gallatin High School, Mr. Collins is a beloved educator whose positive impact on his students spans across generations; and

WHEREAS, currently, David Collins is a first-grade teacher at Union Elementary STEM and Demonstration School; he previously taught at Vena Stuart Elementary School for twenty-nine years; and

WHEREAS, his teaching craft is well-known and cherished for its hands-on approach, which includes working with students in the school garden and holding an annual butterfly launch at Triple Creek Park in Gallatin, an event admired even by those who never entered Mr. Collins's classroom; and

WHEREAS, David Collins further endears himself to the heart of his community by working with his students to donate the eggs and vegetables from the school garden to the Gallatin CARES organization and the Sumner County Food Bank; and

WHEREAS, a man of faith, Mr. Collins is a member of Hartsville Pike Church of Christ, where he regularly coordinates mission trips and church camps that are enjoyed by all in his community; and

WHEREAS, David Collins was nominated by his community for the 2017-2018 LifeChanger of the Year Award, an honor most befitting his outstanding tenure as a teacher, as it recognizes the positive impact he has had on so many young individuals; and

WHEREAS, the LifeChanger of the Year Award is an annual program sponsored by National Life Group that recognizes K-12 educators and school employees across the country who have made a significant difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, positive influence, and leadership; and

WHEREAS, a parade was conducted in January 2018 to honor Mr. Collins and his LifeChanger of the Year nomination, a testament to how truly treasured and beloved he is to his community; and

WHEREAS, thanks to his community's efforts, David Collins won the LifeChanger Spirit Award, which is given to the LifeChanger nominee whose community demonstrates the most support for his or her nomination; the winner of the Spirit Award receives \$5,000 that is split evenly between the winner and the winner's school; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Collins is an inspiration to his colleagues and students, both past and present, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, David Collins truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest precepts of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Collins has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of all whom he has encountered, and the State of Tennessee will sorely miss his unparalleled service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend David Collins upon the occasion of his retirement

from the Union Elementary STEM and Demonstration School, salute his stalwart dedication to educating the youth of Tennessee, applaud his receipt of the LifeChanger Spirit Award, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.